

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 17308 061205Z

14

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 CU-04 PM-07 SS-20 NSC-10

OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 043903

R 061116Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8046

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 17308

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, TH, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO STUDENTS' EMBASSY VISIT

REF: A) BANGKOK 17242 B. BANGKOK 17271 C) STATE 218192

SUMMARY: A FEW ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN BOTH THE ENGLISH AND THAI LANGUAGE PRESS COVERING THE NOVEMBER 5 VISIT OF THE "POST GRADUATE GROUP" TO THE EMBASSY. THERE IS AS YET NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. MOST ARTICLES TO DATE PROVIDE A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH TWO NEWSPAPERS FOCUSED ON AN ANTI-GI CRITICISM THE GROUP RAISED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE "BANGKOK POST" RAN A STRAIGHTFORWARD FRONT PAGE ARTICLE WITH PICTURE NOVEMBER 6 ON THE "POST GRADUATE GROUP" VISIT TO THE EMBASSY THE DAY BEFORE. AFTER PICKING OUT THE POINT THAT THIS EMBASSY GRANTED THE KITTIKACHORN FAMILY VISAS AFTER OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM THE SANYA GOVERNMENT, THE ARTICLE QUOTES VERBATIM THE TEXT OF THE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE (REF B). THE "POST" ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE GROUP'S VISIT TO THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 17308 061205Z

REPUBLIC OF CHINA EMBASSY.

2. "THE NATION" OF NOVEMBER 6 RAN A PICTURE AND STORY ON PAGE THREE ON THE GROUP VISIT. THE ARTICLE QUOTES TWO SENTENCES, BEGINNING "OBVIOUSLY ALLOWING THE PRESENCE OF A MURDERER OF OUR CHILDREN...", FROM THE PROTEST LETTER (REF A) AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT THE GROUP ASKED WHAT THE US WOULD DO IF A THAI COURT DECLARED THANOM A CRIMINAL. IN A MORE SENSATIONALIST VEIN, THE ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT "THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO CHARGED THE EMBASSY WITH INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, CITING THE CASE OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF AMERICAN SUSPECTS." THIS IS AN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO A COMPLAINT THAT THE TWO REPRESENTATIVES RAISED CONCERNING AN ALLEGED SINGLE INCIDENT OF US MILITARY POLICE USURPING THAI POLICE INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY. ON THE FRONT PAGE, THE "NATION" CARRIED A SHORT QUOTE FROM THE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE THAT "THE US INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND."

3. THE THAI LANGUAGE "DAILYNEWS" AND PRESTIGIOUS "THAI RATH" ALSO CARRIED ARTICLES NOVEMBER 6. THE "DAILY NEWS" ARTICLE SUMMARIZED THE MAIN POINTS OF THE PROTEST LETTER. THE THAI PAPERS WERE NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE OR UNBIASED IN THEIR SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION, HOWEVER. THEY, LIKE THE "NATION", DWELT ON THE GROUP'S COMPLAINT THAT GIS RECEIVE SPECIAL LEGAL PRIVILEGES.

4. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT OF THIS VISIT HAS ON BALANCE BEEN MODERATE. WHILE THE VISIT MAY STIMULATE SOME EDITORIALS IN ENSUING DAYS, WE DO NOT EXPECT IT TO STIR UP ANY STORM. MEANWHILE, THE BROADER ISSUE OF THANOM'S PRESENCE MAY CONTINUE TO GENERATE CRITICISM.
UNGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, STUDENT GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO17308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731153/aaaabnaa.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BANGKOK 17242 B. BANGKOK 17271 C)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO STUDENTS' EMBASSY VISIT
TAGS: PINS, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005